

HOUSE BILL 303

My name is Kristi Blazer, and I represent the Montana Beer and Wine Distributors. My apologies for not being present today to address the committee in person.

As you know, my clients sell their products, beer and wine, in glass and aluminum containers. Because of that, we are keenly interested in solutions to the solid waste created by our products. We want to be part of the solution.

Due to the demographics of Montana, being very large geographically and having a small population, we have never favored a bottle bill. There would be far too many problems in its implementation in Montana.

We do see the use of pulverized glass in projects such as for highways as a very good solution. We put our money where our mouth is and we have donated \$5,000 to Headwaters Recycling for mobile glass pulverizer: that money to be used to help defray operational costs of the machine.

We agree with Headwaters that a long term solution to glass waste will require stationary pulverizers in the major cities in Montana. The mobile unit can only do so much. However, if the requirements of HB 303 result in a ready market for pulverized glass, that will provide incentive to cities and others to purchase and operate such machines.

We believe the HB 303 is definitely a step in the right direction and we would request a do pass recommendation by this committee.